



A view of the Andes from Santiago

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# CHILE

By E. M. NEWMAN

*Lecturer and Traveler*



## MENTOR GRAVURES

VIEW OF SANTIAGO · THE HOUSE OF CONGRESS, SANTIAGO · A HILLSIDE  
LANE, VALPARAISO · THE STRAITS OF MAGELLAN · BORAX FIELD, NORTH-  
ERN CHILE · MIDWINTER FARM SCENE



SHOULD Chile be placed on the west coast of North America it would extend from Sitka, Alaska, to a point opposite the City of Mexico. In length it is 2,600 miles, its greatest width is 200 miles, and at its narrowest point it is but 65 miles wide. The average width of the Republic is about 90 miles. The northern part of Chile is rainless; the southern, one of the wettest places on the globe. Chile's great wealth comes from the dry and barren north, which is nature's laboratory, where the Chileans obtain their nitrate of soda, borax and other mineral wealth. The smiling valleys of central Chile constitute the granary of the country, where may be found all the cereals grown in the United States and about the same varieties of fruit. In the extreme south, Chile is a network of islands, peninsulas and channels, providing scenery as grandly picturesque as the fjords of Norway.

### *Santiago, the Capital*

The largest and finest city in the Republic is the Chilean capital (Santiago), in population the fourth city in South America, the heart of a real nation, the center of its political energy. Modern in appearance



it is by no means a new city, for the Spanish cavalier stalked in mail through the streets of Santiago before the Mayflower landed the Pilgrims on the shores of Massachusetts, and priests were chanting services before the English founded Jamestown. There was dust on the volumes in the municipal library centuries before the building of the first little red school-house in the United States.

Rising from the center of the city is the rock known as "Santa Lucia," where in 1541 Valdivia planted a rude fort and announced to his followers that here he would found the "City of St. James," as Santiago is the Spanish for St. James. Since the days of the Spanish conqueror the city has several times been destroyed by earthquakes, only to rise again after each shock, and this accounts for its modern appearance.

Few cities are as magnificently situated as the Chilean capital. Its background is the wonderful Andine range, which for more than 2,000 miles forms the boundary line between Chile and Argentina. Rising

grandly above the spectator is Aconcagua (Akonkagwa) soaring 23,000 feet in the air. Only in the Himalayas may one see a peak so close at hand, but not even there does a mountain rise more grandly above the spectator. Innsbruck, in the Austrian Tyrol, is said to be one of the most beautifully situated cities in the world, but its location dwindles into insignificance when compared with



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THE HOUSE OF CONGRESS, SANTIAGO



SANTIAGO

A corner in a public park



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that of Santiago. From no place can one see the "backbone" of South America to better advantage than the summit of Santa Lucia (Loo'-cha).

## *Government of Chile*

The finest building on the west coast is the House of Congress in the Chilean capital, a modern and magnificent structure. The Chilean Congress, like our own, is composed of a Senate and a House of Deputies. Every deputy must have an income of at least \$500 a year, and a Senator must be 36 years of age. He is required to have an income of a minimum of \$2,000. The President of the Republic is elected for a term of five years, and receives a salary of \$11,000, with an additional allowance for expenses. Chile is efficiently governed, and boasts that it is the only country in South America which has not had a revolution within the memory of any living man. It is destined to become a great nation. It has the minerals to make it wealthy and the people to make it powerful. Its army, while not numerically great, is considered the best in Latin America. Every other republic has a wholesome respect for the fighting qualities of the Chilean soldier. The army has been drilled by German officers, and the influence of the severe discipline introduced by the tutors is evident in every branch of the service. There are about 20,000 soldiers in the country, and the navy ranks first among those of the South American republics.

## *Climate and Life in Santiago*

Santiago is situated about 1,700 feet above the level of the sea, and its climate is delightful during the greater part of the year, but in the winter months of June, July and August the nights are very cold, and as few



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NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM  
SANTIAGO



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SOLDIERS OF CHILE  
In Santiago

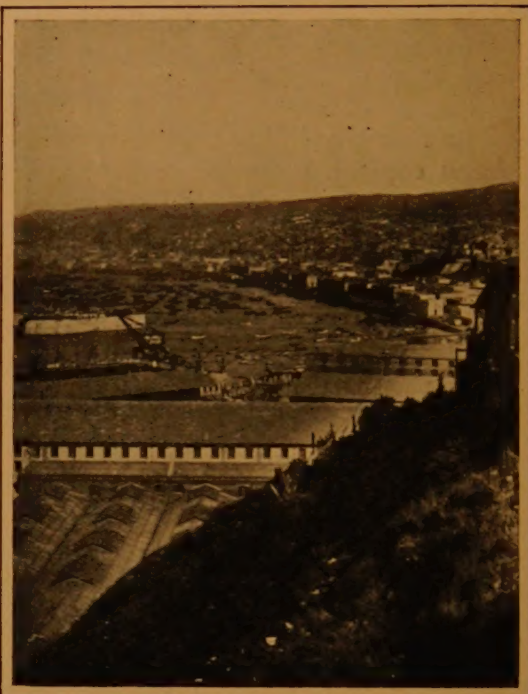


of the Chilean houses are heated, the visitor unaccustomed to these conditions may suffer considerable inconvenience. It is not unusual, during the cold months, for a Chilean host and hostess to receive their guests, the women enveloped in furs and the men wearing overcoats. Coal is expensive, so little of it is burned; and in the few houses that are heated wood is usually used.

The business and residence districts of Santiago are modern to such an extent that one might imagine himself in the newer part of Boston or New York. Many of the homes are models of the latest achievements in house building by modern architects. Among the shops are several large department stores, owned by English, French and German firms, and there are a number of specialty stores where one may find the best of merchandise from nearly all the countries in the world. North Americans, as we are called, are not numerous, although many American firms are represented by agents, or have branch offices in the city.

### *Valparaiso, the Seaport*

Second in importance to the Chilean capital is the largest seaport of the Republic, Valparaiso, a city of 200,000 inhabitants. It enjoys a commerce twice as great as that of any other city of its size, and, next to San Francisco, it is the most important port on the eastern shores of the Pacific. Four



VALPARAISO BAY



THE INCLINED RAILWAY, VALPARAISO



# CHILE

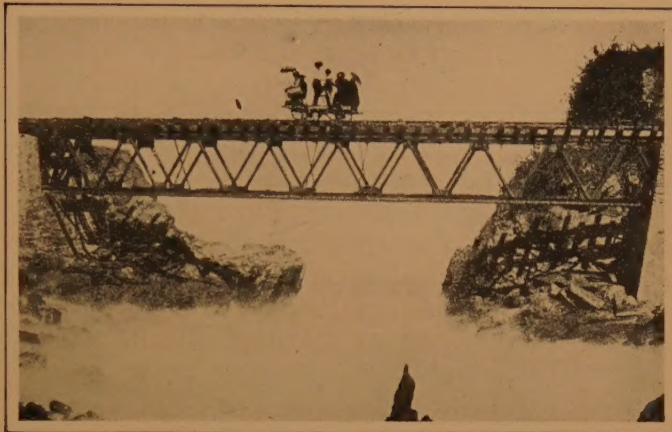
months after the destruction by earthquake of San Francisco, Valparaiso was similarly destroyed, and its business section laid in ruins. Like San Francisco, Valparaiso is rising anew, and has been rebuilt in a better and more enduring manner. The city is composed of an upper and lower town. In the upper section is the residence district, while

in the lower town, on a ledge following the sea, is the business section. The two towns are connected by numerous ascensors or elevators, which carry the residents from the lower section to the hilltops, to a height of from 200 to 300 feet.

Valparaiso is about as far south of the equator as Jacksonville, Florida, is north. Its climate is, therefore, semi-tropical, and though it rains frequently, snow is practically unknown. At times the city is visited by torrential rains, which wash down the sand from the hill-tops, choking up the sewers, and causing mud and water to rise in some of the lower streets to the second story windows of some of the buildings. Everything possible has been tried to avert these catastrophes, but as yet

human effort has been in vain. Fortunately, these disastrous storms occur only at rare intervals.

Not long ago the Chileans depended for their wealth solely on the barren north, or the mineral section, but in recent years the central valleys have

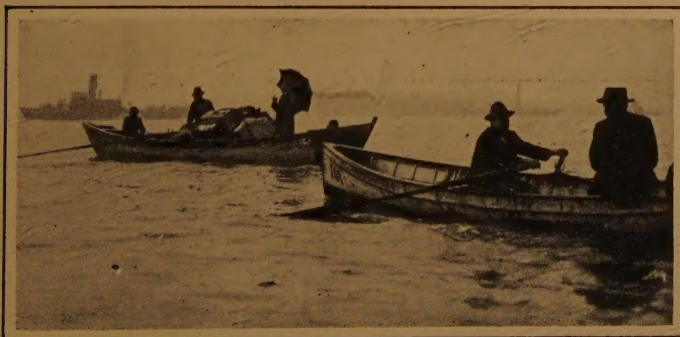


A PICTURESQUE MODE OF TRAVEL

This method is used between islands off the Chilean coast



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SLINGING CATTLE ON BOARD A STEAMER



VALPARAISO

Passengers being rowed out to a steamer



been cultivated, largely by German settlers, and the great productiveness of the soil has brought a new source of wealth to the country. In such cities as Valdivia, so numerous are the Germans that one hears almost as much German as Spanish spoken. The farther south one goes, the greater is the rainfall, and while in Valdivia it rains about 200 days in a year, in Puerto Monte, the southern terminus of the Chilean Railroad, the rainfall averages about 300 days in a year.

## *Southern Chile*

The extreme southern part of the Republic is practically uninhabited, and it is in this section that one comes upon great forests, almost in a virgin state. Untold wealth in hardwood lumber is awaiting the establishment of sawmills and transportation facilities.

The scenery in this section is like that of Norway—wild, rugged and grand. Along the foothills of the Andes is a chain of fresh-water lakes, and



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A CHILEAN LANDSCAPE



MT. OLIVIA



MT. SARMIENTO  
The Straits of Magellan

extending almost as far south as the Straits of Magellan are snow-covered mountains and numerous volcanoes, most of them extinct, but several still active. There is a majestic grandeur to the scenery that would make southern Chile a Mecca for tourists, were hotels constructed and accommodations afforded for visitors. When the tide of travel turns down the west coast of South America, southern Chile will become one of the playgrounds of the world, as few places on earth contain more to attract the eye of the tourist and satisfy the ambition of the world traveler.

Chile now extends not only as far south as the Straits of Magellan, but the Island of Tierra del Fuego, south of the Straits, has been divided between Chile and Argentina.



# CHILE

Land which a few years ago was considered worthless, now teems with thousands of roaming sheep. Tierra del Fuego (the land of fire) was so named because when Magellan discovered the Straits he saw there flames rising from the camp fires of the Indians. Since his time the Indians have almost disappeared, and now but a few wandering bands may be found.

## *Southernmost City of the World*

In the Straits of Magellan is Punta Arenas (Poonta Araynas), which is the Spanish for Sandy Point, the name given to the town by the English. It has a population of about 17,000, and for its size is one of the most prosperous communities in the world. The sheep and wool industries have grown to such proportions that a number of millionaires have sprung up in recent years. There are now about 200 automobiles in this little city, almost all of which are of American manufacture. Punta Arenas is the southernmost city in the world, and during its winter months averages but two hours of daylight in every 24 hours. Cold as is the climate, it is considered a healthful place in which to live, and the inhabitants who have become acclimated enjoy life in this far away city to a greater extent than one might imagine. It has its cinema palaces and other places of amusement, and the foreign residents, among them English, French, German and Americans, may be seen dancing the fox-trot, one-step and hesitation, just as in the large cities of the United States.

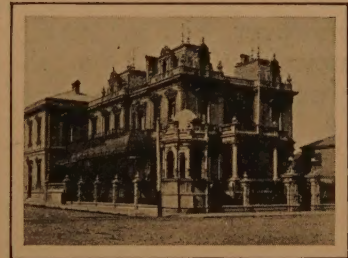
Coal has been found only near Coronel in southern



A SCENE IN PUNTA ARENAS  
The southernmost city in the world



A NATIVE CARRIAGE  
In Punta Arenas



PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
Punta Arenas



THE PRINCIPAL PLAZA, PUNTA ARENAS  
Plaza de la Gobernacion



Chile, and while it is not of the best quality, it is sufficiently good for ordinary purposes. Most of the coal has heretofore been brought from England or Australia, but recently steamers laden with coal have arrived from the United States, and in the future more American coal will probably be used than any other.

### *Resources and Future Development*

Until recent years Chile has practically been isolated from the rest of the world. It was a journey of from five to six weeks from any part of Europe to Chile by way of the Straits of Magellan, and while this was shortened by nearly two weeks when the Trans-Andine Railway was completed, the road is closed by snow at times, so that the benefit to Chile in the saving of time is limited. The completion of the Panama Canal, however, has materially changed former existing conditions, and it is now possible to go from New York City to Valparaiso in about three weeks. When a line of fast steamers is placed in service, there will be no



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ON THE TRANS-ANDINE RAILWAY



NITRATE OF SODA  
DEPOSIT. NOTICE  
THE MIRAGES



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# CHILE



ACONCAGUA

An imposing peak almost continually visible to travelers on the Trans-Andine Railway

part of the Republic, which was taken by conquest from Peru and Bolivia, is the storehouse of Chilean wealth. It is in the rainless north that one finds lakes of nitrates and borax, mines of gold, silver and copper. In a country where it never rains, where nothing will grow, nature has provided one of the best fertilizers known to man, "nitrate of soda."

From the nitrate not only fertilizer is obtained, but nitric acid is manufactured and high explosives are made. High in the Andes one may see ground apparently covered with snow, which on closer inspection is

difficulty in making the journey in two weeks. This will open vast possibilities for the future of the Republic. It will bring Chile nearer to Americans than to any of the European nations, and make it a natural market for the United States. When we remember that the Chileans in normal times import annually about \$300,000,000 worth of merchandise, its commercial importance to us is apparent, and worthy of consideration by our business men. The northern



SALTPETRE  
DEPOSITS IN  
NORTHERN  
CHILE







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IN THE STRAITS OF MAGELLAN

found to be a nitrate lake. Usually the upper layer is so intermingled with dust that it has become worthless. It is the second layer, found from 20 to 40 feet below the surface, that produces about 50% pure nitrate. This is called "caliche," and in this layer iodine is also obtained. Chile formerly exported more than \$100,000,000 worth of nitrate annually, and about \$14,000,000 worth of iodine. The export duties exacted on these products by the government form by far the greater percentage of its revenue. Nitrate of soda, which in reality is saltpetre, is mined by drilling holes into the earth to a depth of several feet below the "caliche," which is blown into the air by the use of dynamite, and is afterwards treated at the mill, before it is ready for shipment. The dirt and foreign substances are all removed, and the iodine separated, before the product leaves the country.

American wealth has been rolling into Chile in recent years. A short time ago the Bethlehem Steel Company purchased two mountains, paying for them several million dollars. These mountains are said to be almost solid iron. The iron ore will be brought to the United States and smelted here. A fleet of steamers is now being built for the purpose of conveying



TIERRA DEL FUEGO  
The Land of Fire





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THE CHRIST OF THE ANDES

the ore. One of the largest smelters in the world, with a capacity of 50,000 tons of copper ore daily, is now being constructed by the Guggenheim interests. These enormous investments indicate that American capitalists are awake to the wonderful opportunities afforded in the rich mineral district found in the northern part of Chile, and future developments will no doubt reveal untold wealth in this laboratory of nature.

## *The Crest of the Andes*

No visitor should leave Chile without a visit to the crest of the Andes, which towers 3,000 feet above the tunnels through which the Trans-Andine line passes, in the journey from Valparaíso, or Santiago, to Buenos Aires

(bway'-nos eye'-rez). There in the awful solitude of the snow-covered Andes is the most remarkable monument in the world, the famous "Christ of the Andes." It was constructed in 1904 as a symbol of peace between the republics of Chile and Argentina. On it is this inscription:

"Sooner shall these mountains crumble into dust than Chile and Argentina break the Peace, to which they have pledged themselves at the feet of Christ the Redeemer."

Nowhere is there a more impressive monument than this. Standing as it does on the crest of the mountains, about 14,000 feet above the level of the sea, it is a perpetual symbol of peace between the two republics. The Chileans are a sturdy race of people, with a remarkable history. Their development under the most adverse circumstances has been little less than wonderful, and now that means have been provided to bring the Republic closer to progressive and civilizing influences, it will retain its place, commercially and politically, as one of the most important of the Latin American republics.

## SUPPLEMENTARY READING

### THE SOUTH AMERICAN TOUR

By *Annie S. Peck*

### THE SOUTH AMERICANS

By *W. H. Koebel*

### SOUTH AMERICA

By *James Bryce*

### MODERN CHILE

By *W. H. Koebel*

### CHILE

By *G. F. Scott Elliott*

### CHILE AND HER PEOPLE OF TODAY

By *Nevin O. Winter*

### CHILE; ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

By *Julio Pérez Canto*

### THE HIGHEST ANDES

By *E. A. Fitzgerald*

### THE INDEPENDENCE OF CHILE

By *A. Stuart M. Chisholm*

\* \* \* Information concerning the above books may be had on application to the Editor of The Mentor.



## Chile and Argentina

Chile is long and narrow, and essentially different in character in the north, middle and southern parts. There are really three Chiles. The northern part, running from Coquimbo up, is arid desert, some of it profitable in nitrates, but most of it useless. The southern part, running down from Chiloe Island, is an archipelago of wooded isles and a narrow strip of wooded mainland, drenched by many rains and tropically rich. The central part of Chile alone is densely peopled. This tract, about 700 miles long, has high, noble mountains, fertile valleys, and an excellent climate. This is the real Chile—the home of the nation.





THE STRAITS OF MAGELLAN



**T**HE early history of Chile is quite different from that of Peru and Mexico. In those countries the first inhabitants were Indians of a remarkable degree of civilization. In Chile, that long strip of land running along the west coast of South America, however, the tribes of Indians, although not mere savages, were of a

low order. In the north the Indians were more civilized than those in the south. This was probably due to the invasion and conquest of northern Chile in the fifteenth century by the Incas of Peru. The Incas were a wealthy, highly civilized race, and their influence, while in some ways working for the good of Chile, by weakening the power of the tribes, paved the way for the invasion of the country by the Spaniards. In the south the savages were fiercely independent and warlike.

The early Spanish explorers had no altruistic motives. They were out for what they could get and they frankly admitted it. They invaded Chile for the first time in 1535. Diego de Almagro, the companion and rival of Pizarro in the conquest of Peru, marched into Chile in search of gold. He did not find what he wanted. On the other hand, the southern tribes resisted him so obstinately that he returned to Peru three years later. Two years after that, Pizarro sent Pedro de Valdivia to conquer and settle the country. This gentleman founded Santiago, the present capital of Chile, in February, 1541. He also founded some other towns, but in 1553 the Indians rose and defeated his forces and killed Valdivia.

From that time there was continuous warfare between the invaders and the savages. Since no gold was found in the country then, there were few settlers. It was, therefore, impossible to strike the Indians a vital blow; and the character of the country aided its defenders. One Spanish army after another was sent over only to fail. At last, in 1640, a treaty was made which gave to the Indians all the land south of the Bio-bio River. This peace was broken by three fierce wars, but at last a treaty was made which actually gave the Indians the right to have a minister at Santiago.

In its early days Chile was not a prosperous country. No precious metals had at that time been found there, and the Indians kept the settlers so busy fighting that they had very little time to grow wealthy. During the eighteenth century the condition of the colony was improved in many ways, however. Trade with France was permitted to some extent, and a large number of hardy emigrants were sent out from Spain. Freed from the necessity of fighting the savages, the inhabitants were able to give more attention to their material welfare. A university was started in Santiago in 1747; more towns were settled; and agriculture and industries were promoted.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Chile was a country whose resources had hardly been touched. Its population was about 500,000, of Spanish and mixed Spanish and Indian blood. The people were vigorous, but ignorant.

Then came the struggle for independence. This idea was suggested to the Spanish colonists by the revolt of England's North American colonies, and the French Revolution. On September 18, 1810, the governor of Chile resigned and his powers were vested in an elected junta (board) of seven members. This was the beginning of Chilean independence. It was a long time, however, before this was fully attained. The chief leaders were Juan (hoo'-ahn) Martinez de Rozas, José (ho'zay) Miguel Carrera, and Bernardo O'Higgins. They were jealous of each other, and the people were apathetic. But in 1817, the patriots were victorious, and O'Higgins was named director general of Chile. Finally, on April 3, 1818, the Spaniards were decisively defeated at the River Maipo. By this battle the independence of Chile was secured.







**T**HE new republic of Chile (1818), entered upon a period of internal confusion and near anarchy. O'Higgins was compelled to resign in 1823, and from that date to 1830 there were no less than ten governments, while three different constitutions were proclaimed. At last, however, the Conservative Party secured

the upper hand. Under its administration the country enjoyed a long period of stable government. The condition of the people was improved, and Chile advanced rapidly in prosperity. In 1861 a Liberal reaction set in. This was aided by divisions in the Conservative Party, arising mainly over questions of religion. Schools, railways and telegraphs were rapidly extended. In 1877 a financial crisis occurred. The depression was only temporary, however, and was met by the issue of paper money. The population of the country was now over two millions, and it was rapidly becoming prosperous.

In 1879 the war with Peru began. This lasted until 1882, and Chile was the conqueror. Chile then prospered until 1891. In this year occurred the revolt against President Balmaceda (bal-mah-chee-da). His forces were defeated by the rebels on August 28. Three days later the victorious insurgents entered Santiago and assumed the government of the republic. Balmaceda fled for safety to the Argentine Legation. On the evening of September 18, when the term for which he had been elected president of the republic ended, he committed suicide by shooting himself. This was the closing act of the most severe and bloody war Chile had ever witnessed.

Soon after the close of the revolution, an unfortunate incident brought about strained relations between the United States and Chile. A number of men of the United States vessel *Baltimore* were enjoying shore leave. There was an argument between some of them and a group of Chilean sailors in a saloon in Valparaiso. In the fight that followed one of the Americans was killed and others severely hurt. The United States government demanded

an indemnity. Chile wanted to argue the matter. James G. Blaine, who was Secretary of State then, refused peremptorily to listen to any explanations. In the end Chile paid an indemnity of \$75,000.

After the revolution Admiral Montt, the leader of the rebels, was elected president. It was the first completely free election ever held in Chile.

At the beginning of the year 1897 a difficulty arose with Argentina over the boundary line between Chile and that country. War seemed imminent. Neither side would give way. At last, however, Argentina agreed to arbitrate. The tribunal consisted of the representative of the United States in Argentina, assisted by one Argentine and one Chilean commissioner. Their decision, given in April, 1899, was accepted by both governments. In September, 1900, fresh difficulties arose between the two countries. During the dispute troops were called out on both sides, but it was peaceably settled at last in 1902. Three years later a long standing dispute with Bolivia was settled in a treaty of peace.

On August 27, 1906, the prosperity of Chile suffered a shock. An earthquake almost entirely destroyed the town of Valparaiso, and Santiago and other towns were terribly shaken. About 3,000 persons were killed, a still larger number injured, and at least 100,000 rendered homeless. The property loss was great. Before the end of the year, however, the rebuilding of Valparaiso was going on rapidly.

Chile has always been singularly free from the civil wars which have so disturbed many of the South American republics. It is a country of great resources, and can look forward to an ever increasing era of peace and prosperity.





**I**N this monograph an attempt will be made to explain in a simple manner what the government of Chile consists of and how it works. Any system of government is rather complicated, and not to be comprehended in its entirety at a glance. But since Chile is a republic, and its government resembles that of the United

States to some extent, the system should not be very hard to grasp.

Chile is what is known as a centralized republic—that is, the power is concentrated in a central authority. The sovereignty resides in the nation, but only married citizens over twenty-one, and unmarried citizens over twenty-five can vote. Voters cannot be in domestic service. They must be able to read and write, and they must either be owners of real estate, have capital invested in business or in industry, or receive salaries or incomes proportionate in value to such real estate as investment. When it is realized that seventy-five per cent of the population is classed as illiterate and a great majority of the laboring class is without land, badly paid and miserably poor, it may be clearly seen that the government of Chile is managed by a small minority. The dominant element in this is the rich land-holding interest.

The governmental powers are vested in three distinct branches—Legislative, Executive and Judicial. The Legislative branch consists of a National Congress, a senate of thirty-two members, and a chamber of deputies of ninety-four members. The senators are elected by provinces and hold office for six years. One deputy is allowed for each 30,000 of the population and each fraction over 15,000. The deputies are elected by departments or States, and hold office for three years. Both senators and deputies must be at least thirty-six years old, must have an independent income, and serve without salary. Congress meets each year on the first of June, and sits until the first of September.

The Executive is a president, who is elected for a term of five years and is ineligible for the next succeeding term. He is chosen by electors, who are elected by the departments or States. This resembles the manner in which the people of the United States elect their president. The president is paid about \$11,250 a year. He must have been born in Chile, and be not less than thirty years old. He has a cabinet of six ministers, whose departments are Interior, Foreign Affairs, Worship and Colonization, Justice and Public Construction, War, Marine and Finance, and Industry and Public Works.

The Judicial power consists of a supreme court of justice of seven members. This is located in Santiago, and exercises authority over all the lower courts of the repub-

lic. The jury system does not exist in Chile. Juries are unknown except in cases where the freedom of the press has been abused. All trials are heard by one or more judges. A public prosecutor represents the government in each department or State. The judges of the higher courts are appointed by the national executive; those of the minor tribunals are appointed by the governmental official in the political division in which they are located.

The Chilean army is organized on the German model. It has been trained by European officers. A great deal of money has been spent on arms, equipment and fortifications. Military instruction is given in a well organized military school at Santiago, a war academy, and a school of military engineering. Under the law military service is compulsory for all citizens between eighteen and forty-five years of age. All young men of twenty-one years are required to serve a certain period with the regular force. After this period they are transferred to the first reserve for nine years, and then to the second reserve.

The peace strength of Chile is 19,666, reserves 80,333; making a total war strength of 100,000.

The Chilean navy is modeled on that of Great Britain. All the best ships were built in British yards. Chile's navy includes two modern battleships, one older battleship, one first-class cruiser, three second-class cruisers, two third-class cruisers, two gun boats, nine destroyers, five torpedo boats, and 7,500 officers and men.

Chile's currency is almost wholly paper. It is nominally based, however, on a gold standard of thirty-six cents to the peso. This unit is not actually coined. Some of the coins are the condor of twenty pesos, the escudo of five pesos, both of gold; the peso of 100 centavos, and its fractional parts, all in silver; and the two and one-half, two, one, and one-half centavos, of bronze.

The metric system of weights and measures is the legal standard in Chile. The old Spanish standards are still widely used, however, especially in handling mining and farm produce.

There is no State bank, although the Bank of Chile, with its numerous agencies, may be said to fill the place of such an institution.





**T**HE most important of all Chile's industries is mining, and the greatest product is nitrate of soda.

The northern section of Chile is a desert, but out of this desert comes most of Chile's wealth. This region supplies the agriculturists of the whole world with their nitrates, and the nitrates are there because the country

is practically rainless. However, it is not quite true that no rain falls in northern Chile. There are times when rain falls in some quantities. Now, since nitrate melts at once when brought into contact with water, what is it that protects this product from being swept away into the Pacific? The answer is the *costra*, or crust. This is a layer of cement-like material, some feet in thickness, which covers the nitrate and which has to be blasted away before the nitrate itself may be secured.

The nitrate deserts are regions of low stony hills, dry and barren, without a shrub or blade of grass to lighten the landscape. Though they are sources of fertility to other lands far away, these fields themselves remain forever sterile. The deposit of salt is called *caliche* in its crude, impure state. Refined, this product has a wonderful fertilizing power and is of great benefit in growing cereals, root-crops and fruits in general.

These nitrate fields lie between 50 and 100 miles from the coast of Chile and at elevations exceeding 2,000 feet above sea level. The first export of nitrates was in 1830. In 1905 the total export of the product was 1,603,140 tons.

The nitrate *oficinas*—the places where the product is reduced and prepared—are nearly all owned and operated by British companies. They give employment to many Chileans, a few Peruvians and other working people of all nationalities. Each *oficina* is the center of a nitrate estate, and is equipped with houses for the workers. There are also buildings which shelter the machinery, and tall iron pipes where the rock is ground to powder. This powder is then washed and boiled; and the liquid mass is run off, drained and dried into a whitish powder. This is packed into sacks and sent down to the coast for shipment. There is a considerable by-product of iodine, which is separated and also sold.

The air of the district is dry, pure and healthful, but a more dismal place to live in can hardly be imagined. Large deposits of borax and common salt have been

found in the same region. These add considerably to the value of this arid tract.

There is also some gold, silver and copper mining done in Chile. Gold is found in many provinces, but the output is not large. There are some extensive deposits near the Straits of Magellan which are washed out by placer miners. Silver is found principally on the slopes and plateaus of the Andes, and the desert provinces of the north.

However, next to the nitrates, the most important mining industry in Chile is that of copper. The richest deposits are in the desert provinces. Chile was once the largest producer of copper in the world. Low prices later caused a shrinkage in the output. Yet the country may still be classed among the principal producers.

Some coal is mined in Chile, and to this may be added lead, cobalt ore, manganese ore, and sulphur. Guano is also classed among the mineral products. The richest Chilean deposits, however, were exhausted long ago. It is said that extensive deposits of iron exist in Chile, but the mining of this product has not been developed to any extent.

In addition to her minerals, Chile has other important natural resources. According to the census returns about one-half of the population of the country lives in rural districts and is engaged in agricultural pursuits. Central Chile is singularly well adapted to agriculture. Alfalfa is grown extensively. Great attention is also given to fruit growing. Wheat is grown with great success in the southern part of central Chile. Maize, or Indian corn, is grown in every part of the country except the rainy south, where the grain cannot ripen. Potatoes are widely cultivated, and peas, beans, walnuts and olives are grown.

With its wide varieties of climate, Chile can grow almost everything. It is little wonder that many of its people are farmers. They realize that the wealth of their country lies in the land, and they are wisely capitalizing this wealth.





**T**HE cities of Santiago and Valparaiso are the centers of such art and literature as are to be found in Chile. Santiago de Chile is the capital of the republic, and of this town it has been said, "The climate of Santiago is good, but it is very unhealthy." Both statements are quite true, for Santiago would be one of the most

healthy cities in the world if the sanitary conditions were all that they should be. In regard to this there has been some improvement of late.

One traveler says that Santiago is the best place in South America for all the year round residence. It is very attractive from a scenic and social point of view. It is located on the Mapocho River. The city is built on a wide, beautiful plain about 1,860 feet above sea-level. In the center of the city rises the rocky hill of Santa Lucia. This was once a fort, but has now been converted into a pleasure ground, with theaters, restaurants and monuments. The snow-clad peaks of the Andes overshadow the city. The Mapocho River was once the cause of destructive floods, but it is now enclosed with embankments and crossed by several beautiful bridges.

Pedro de Valdivia founded Santiago. He planned and laid out the city in 1541. The settlement had a hard struggle for existence for some years, but of late it has grown rapidly. Its population, nearly 400,000, is now ten times as great as when independence was declared in 1810.

The Cathedral of Santiago is the oldest of the churches. It was originally erected by Pedro de Valdivia, and after being rebuilt by Mendoza was destroyed by the earthquake of 1647. It was then rebuilt on a new plan some time after 1748. The Cathedral is not striking in appearance, but its interior decorations are rich and in good taste.

The religion of Chile is Roman Catholic. The Constitution declares it to be the religion of the State, and the inaugural oath of the president pledges him to protect it. The greater part of the population remains loyal to the established faith. In 1835 a law was passed giving the privilege of religious worship to other faiths. Practically full religious freedom was accorded.

It is interesting to note that Lord Bryce finds that the men of the upper class in Chile appear to leave Christian worship entirely to the women. It has no interest for them. They are not actively hostile to Christianity, but they believe that it does not concern them, and may be left to women and peasants.

The main plaza of Santiago is beautified by trees, flower beds and fountains. Concerts are given here every Sunday,

Thursday and Saturday evenings. In the center of the plaza is a statue by the famous Italian sculptor, Fagazzaro, which represents Liberty breaking the chains of Spanish slavery.

The business quarter of the city is chiefly between the Plaza and the Alameda. The streets are rather narrow, with a single car track on one side. The cars go by one route and return by another to the starting point. In this section are many excellent shops, the hotels and the banks. Of the government buildings here the Capitol is naturally the finest.

The most notable street in the city is the Avenida de Las Delicias, which is commonly called the Alameda. It is a beautiful park-like promenade, 600 feet wide. Many monuments of soldiers, statesmen and scientists of Chile adorn the central parkway. One of the most striking memorials is a bronze statue of Bernardo O'Higgins on horseback. He was the son of an Irishman, Ambrose O'Higgins, who, after living some time in Spain, settled in Chile, where he was made governor in 1778. Bernardo was born there, and, entering the army in 1813, became commander. He took part in the revolutionary struggles and later became Supreme Dictator. He died in 1845.

The parks of Santiago are an important feature of the city. Probably the most beautiful is that of Santa Lucia. This park rises to a pavilion-covered summit 400 feet high, from which point there is a wonderful view of the city spread out below. Other parks are the Parque Cousiño, the Quinta Normal and the Forestal.

There are many points of interest for visitors to Santiago—the University of Chile, the Military School, and the Municipal Theater, or Opera House. This theater was erected in 1873, and is one of the most beautiful structures of its kind in the world. An imposing entrance hall has wide staircases leading to the upper row of boxes. There is a large foyer and refreshment rooms. The theater seats an audience of about 4,000. The opera season is short, but a company of artists is brought every year from Italy for a month or more. Society attends in immaculate costume, with gorgeous gowns and sparkling jewels.

The National Library in Santiago contains a valuable collection of historical documents. It is a place of much interest to the scholar and antiquarian.





A HILLSIDE LANE, VALPARAISO, CHILE





ALPARAISO stands on the south side of the almost semi-circular Bay of Valparaiso, on the slopes of a spur of barren hills projecting into the Pacific. The city occupies a narrow strip of beach extending around the head of the bay, and spreads up the steep slopes and valleys of the enclosing hills.

The name Valparaiso means Vale of Paradise. The city is the largest and busiest port on the Pacific Ocean south of San Francisco. But the trade is largely in the hands of foreign merchants. Among its industries are railway shops, breweries, a large sugar refinery, and numerous small factories. The population of the city is nearly 200,000.

When residents are asked what there is to see in Valparaiso, their usual reply is, "Oh, nothing at all." This, however, is not altogether true. There are many handsome buildings on the business streets. They are mostly of recent construction, since the greater part of this district was destroyed by the terrible earthquake of 1906.

Valparaiso was founded in 1536 by Juan de Saavedra, who named it after his birthplace near Cuenca in Spain. The name was ill-chosen, however, for "Vale of Paradise" hardly describes the barren hills and dirty streets of the city.

It was in April, 1906, that an earthquake practically destroyed Valparaiso. Some buildings withstood the shocks, but the resulting fires left little of the lower part of the city undamaged. The upper town was not injured to any great extent. Few traces of the disaster are now left.

One of the most interesting sights for Americans in Valparaiso is a small marble tomb in the English burial ground. The inscription on this tomb reads: "In memory of the officers and seamen slain on board the United States frigate *Essex* in an engagement with H. R. Majesty's frigate *Phæbe* and brig *Cherub*, February 28, 1814." A list of fifty-two names fol-

lows, and the statement that it was erected by officers of four ships of the United States navy. This ship was the *Essex*, which was commanded by Captain David Porter, and which before being captured inflicted a great deal of damage on British property during the War of 1812.

The Naval School of Chile occupies one of the noteworthy buildings of Valparaiso. Ninety cadets attend, and the school is noted for the thoroughness of its instruction.

Under the old conservative régime there was very little public school education in Chile outside the larger towns. The influence of more liberal ideas greatly improved this situation. The government now makes strong efforts to bring its public school system within the reach of all. By the constitution it is provided that free instruction must be given to the people. School attendance is not compulsory, however.

The literature of South America as a whole is not of great volume. The reason for this is that the period that it covers represents a very small space of time. There have been quite a number of Chilean and Argentine historians, however. Chile may well be proud of such a historian as José Toribio Medina. He has written 180 volumes on various events and aspects of the South American continent.

Chile is said to possess about 400 publications. Of the daily papers the two most important are the *Mercurio* of Santiago, and the *Mercurio* of Valparaiso. Other papers are the *Diario* and the *Prensa* of Santiago, and *El Día* and *Union* of Valparaiso.